

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for obtaining a transgenic maize plant containing a coding sequence of interest that is free of ancillary selection marker sequence comprising:
 - (a) transforming a maize plant, or a cell of a maize plant, that lacks an active Ac element transposase, with a transformation vector comprising:
 - (1) a first expression cassette comprising a coding sequence of interest that is not bordered flanked by mobilizable sequences of a maize active Ac element transposon; and
 - (2) a second expression cassette comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an ancillary selection marker that is bordered flanked by the mobilizable sequences of a maize active Ac element transposon, wherein said nucleotide sequence encoding the ancillary selection marker is operably linked to a plant expression control sequence,to obtain primary transformants;
 - (b) growing the primary transformants under selective conditions to obtain at least one transformed parental maize plant having the ancillary selection marker coding sequence;
 - (c) producing an F1 generation by crossing the selected transformed parental maize plant with a second parental maize plant, said second maize plant having within its genome a sequence encoding an endogenous active Ac element transposase that operates on

the mobilizable sequences of the second expression cassette, wherein said sequence encoding the endogenous active transposase encodes the active Ac element within an R-nj::AC allele of the R-nj chromosomal locus such that excision of the said Ac element results in the production of anthocyanin-containing sectors on the crown of the seed, including the embryo;

(d) selecting a maize plant from the F1 generation having said anthocyanin-containing sectors; and

(e) regenerating a maize plant from the plant, or a cell of the maize plant, selected in (d),

such that a transgenic maize plant containing a coding sequence of interest that is free of ancillary selection marker sequence is produced.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ancillary selection marker coding sequence is selected from the group consisting of an antibiotic resistance coding sequence, a herbicide resistance coding sequence, a colorimetric marker coding sequence and a luminescent marker coding sequence.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the ancillary selection marker coding sequence is selected from the group consisting of an *nptII* coding sequence and a *bar* coding sequence.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second expression cassette further comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a reporter protein, wherein expression of the reporter protein is detectable without destruction of the primary transformants.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the reporter protein is a green fluorescent protein.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the maize plant in step (d) is selected from the F1 generation, F2 generation, or calluses.
8. (Canceled)
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the transgenic maize plant belongs to the A188 line.
10. (Canceled)
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second parental maize plant of step (c) is selected from the group consisting of A188 and W22 lines homozygous for said R-nj::Ac allele.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the selection of the maize plant in step (d) comprises:
- selecting variegated F1 seeds;
 - selecting F1 maize plants displaying somatic excision of the ancillary selection marker coding sequence; or
 - selecting F1 maize plants displaying germinal excision of the ancillary selection marker coding sequence; and

obtaining an F2 maize plant from the selected F1 seeds or plants.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the selection of the the maize plant in step (d) comprises:

producing calluses from immature F1 embryos obtained from the F1 generation,

visually selecting the calluses containing the ancillary selection marker,

multiplying calluses and selecting sectors of excision of the ancillary selection marker coding sequence, and

regenerating F1 maize plants from the selected sectors of excision.

14. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein regenerating maize plants from the maize plant, or cell from the maize plant, selected in (d) comprises culturing selected calluses of immature embryos of F1 ears under conditions that allow regeneration of maize plants.

15-21. (Canceled)